UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/L.24
17 November 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of Germany

Paper submitted by Germany**

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* E/CONF.91/1.

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Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen (StAGN)

StAGN (Permanent committee on geographical names) is an independent scientific organization on the standardization of geographical names of German speaking regions. Experts of Austria, Germany and Switzerland are regular members of StAGN. Representatives of other regions where German is an official language like Southern Tyrol and the German speaking part of Belgium, are collaborating with StAGN.

In the reporting period the chairmanship of StAGN was conferred on Dr. K.-A. Seel, Euskirchen, from 1991 to 1994 and on Dr. J. Sievers, Frankfurt am Main, since March 1994.

The Secretariat of StAGN is located at the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (formerly: Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie / IFAG).

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http://www.ifag.de
click: geoinformation
click: StAGN

Meetings

StAGN is conducting regular meetings twice a year and held 11 meetings since the 6th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Each meeting was attended by some 25 members and guests. The agendas included usually detailed reports and discussions on the agenda items listed below.

Representatives of Germany attended working meetings of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) of UNGEGN held in New York in 1992, in Cologne in 1993, in New York in 1994, in Geneva in 1996, and in Vienna in 1996. Chairmanship of DGSD was conferred on Dr. Sievers in 1994.

Representatives of Germany participated in the 6th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 1992 as well as in the 17th UNGEGN Session held in New York in 1994 and in the 18th UNGEGN Session held in Geneva in 1996.

Digital databases and gazetteers

Gazetteer Germany: In 1981 the first edition of the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany („West Germany") was published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie. It comprises of 21.500 geographical names contained on the General Topographic Map at 1:500 000 scale. The data is available in printed and digital form.

After the German reunification this dataset was supplemented by the geographical names of the five new Länder (federal states) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brandenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen, Sachsen and the eastern part of Berlin. The supplemented dataset is available in digital form only.

In the past two years the database has been extended by recording some 23.000 additional names as rendered on the general topographic map at 1:250 000 scale. This dataset is available in digital form only (see separate Working Paper presented at this Conference). A further extension of the database to 1:200 000 scale topographic maps is in preparation.

Concise Gazetteer Germany: In fulfilling Resolutions II/35 and V/16 of the 2nd and 5th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, work on a Concise Gazetteer Germany is in progress. The gazetteer will comprise populated places of larger than 10.000 inhabitants, other places of cultural or touristic

significance, lakes, streams, mountains and regions of major importance. The concise gazetteer will contain an alphabetical list of some 2000 geographical features and a second part which will list systematically the names classified by features classes (populated places, waters, mountains, regions). It is intended to make the Concise Gazetteer Germany available on the Internet at a later time.

List of geographical names of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic countries: Supported by a research grant, a concise gazetteer was compiled comprising of geographical names located in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The gazetteer contains some 12.000 records and consists of three main parts:

a. An *Introduction* listing the alphabets of all concerned scripts (old and new forms), transcription and transliteration keys, references;

b. An *alphabetically ordered list* of all entries. Amongst general geographical information each record will contain: the current original script of a name (as well as old forms of that script), a transliterated romanized form, the current transcription to the Russian cyrillic alphabet, the former Russian name (in cyrillic letters).

c. A *systematic listing* of all names classified by countries and features classes (populated places, administrative units 3rd order (rajony), waters, mountains, regions, nature reserves).

The form of publication was not yet finally decided upon.

Index of German-language Antarctic place-names: The Digital Antarctic Names Data Base of German-language place-names, established at the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, includes the names of those Antarctic topographical and geographical features which have been first named in German since 1870. The first edition published as a hardcopy in 1988 was followed by three supplements. A second edition

was published in 1993 which was followed by five further supplements. The Index is now available on the Internet (see separate Working Paper presented at this Conference).

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

The first edition of Toponymic Guidelines Federal Republic of Germany was presented at the 9th Session of UNGEGN held at New York in 1981. Due to the German unification which took place in 1990, the guidelines were reviewed and a second edition was presented at the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held at New York in 1992.

Work on a third edition was done due to a subsequent administrative reform which has been performed in the five new Länder (federal states) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brandenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen and Sachsen.

Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

A German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology was prepared by StAGN and published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie (IFAG), Frankfurt am Main, in 1995. It is based on the original English version (Version 2.0) of the glossary which was issued by the UNGEGN Working Group on Terminology in 1993 and adopted by UNGEGN at its 17th Session in 1994. It contains 374 English/German entries and 226 German definitions. See also Working Paper Nr. 10 of the 18th UNGEGN Session held in Geneva in 1996.

List of country names

A synoptical list of country names in German language is being collated and compiled by StAGN. The list contains those names being used and issued by the Foreign Offices of the Republic of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Swiss Confederation. The list is being updated continuously and published at irregular intervals. The fourth edition was issued in May 1995. A fifth edition, extended by a list of selected non-independent regions, was published as of August 1997. The list will be available on the Internet (see separate Working Paper presented at this Conference).

Exonyms

A list of „Selected exonyms of the German language" was prepared by StAGN under the convenorship of E. Spiess and published by StAGN in 1994 (see Working Paper No.81 of the 17th UNGEGN Session). The list contains only such exonyms that are commonly and widely used within the German speaking regions. Exonyms showing slight modifications as compared to the endonymic spelling are not listed. The list is recently under revison for a sencond edition. It is intended to publish it on the Internet.

Map of German regions

Under the convenorship of H. Liedtke the 2nd edition of the map „Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1 million scale, Regions - their names and margins" *) was compiled by StAGN and published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main in 1994. This map integrates and harmonizes the contents of two separately existing maps, published for the former GDR in 1982**) and for FRG in 1985***) . A paper on this item was submitted to the 17th Session of UNGEGN as Working Paper No.39 Add.1.

Changes of geographical names and boundaries

Members of StAGN (W. Pobanz and K.-H. Thieme) are collating official and unofficial notes and informations on changes of geographical names, boundaries and other related matters. Most of the information, made available to StAGN members and other interested colleagues, is gained by scanning and evaluating German newspapers. The material is not available in digital form. The service was established in 1992 and has recently issued its 12th compilation.

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*) Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1 000 000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen, 2. Ausgabe. Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, 1994

**) Regionale geographische Namen der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik (regional geographical names in the GDR), approx. scale 1:800 000, Berlin 1982

***) Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1 000 000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen - (vorläufige Ausgabe). Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, 1985